

St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church

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Parish Staff

Rev. A. Maderak, Pastor

Rev. Mr. Oswald D'Paiva, Deacon

Sheila Mills, Secretary



Feast of the Holy Family

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



Masses For The Week

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

5:00 pm Domenico, Rosalia, Stefano
& Antonio Gallippi R.I.P. - Gallippi Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

9:00 am The People of the Parish
11:00 am Anton MacFarlane R.I.P. &
Peduru, Anna & Anton Aseervatham R.I.P.
- Patricia MacFarlane & Family

New Year's Eve Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Jeremiah & Ivy Pumphrey R.I.P.
- Family

MONDAY, JANUARY 1 *New Year's Day*

9:00 am Adeline Marcos - Marcos Family
11:00 am The People of the Parish

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

9:00 am Peace & Faith - Ngo Family

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

5:00 pm Benedict & Josephine Grech R.I.P.
- Victor Grech

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

9:00 am The People of the Parish
11:00 am Maria Cerasoli & Anna Paolini R.I.P.
- Lo Giacco Family

Please note: There will be no weekday Masses Tuesday, January 2, 2024 - Thursday, January 4, 2024. **We will have Friday morning Mass, January 5, at 9:00 a.m., followed by Holy Hour.**

Sick: That all who are ill may enjoy the consolation of the Lord and the presence of their loved ones, especially Bill Bennett and Guiliana Della Rovere.



Deceased: For the family of God seeking eternal rest: that they may find light, happiness and peace.

Pope's December Prayer Intention: *For persons with disabilities* - We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

The parish office will be closed Monday, January 1 and Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

New Year's Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve - Sunday, December 31
Feast of Mary, Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation
5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day - Monday, January 1
Feast of Mary, Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

You are reminded that we are obliged to attend separate Masses for:

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Dec 30/31)

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Dec 31/Jan1)

As New Year's Mass fall on a Monday, attending one of the regular Sunday Masses on December 30/31 does not fulfill your obligation to attend New Year's Mass.

Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer Service 2024

Sunday, January 21, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Venue: St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Cathedral
(455 Ferrier St., Markham, ON L3R 5Z2)

Theme: "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

Join Archbishop Francis Leo and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church.

The homilist is H.G. Anba Archilids, General Bishop and Papal Vicar Coptic Orthodox Archdiocese of Toronto.

Livestream available at <https://bit.ly/WPCU2024live>

This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches.

Update Regarding the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund

On December 12, 2023 the Archdiocese of Toronto announced the first phase of funding as part of our \$6 million commitment to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). Through the tremendous generosity of parishioners throughout the archdiocese, including our own parish, more than \$2.7 million has been directed through the IRF to organizations and projects committed to promoting healing and reconciliation for communities and families.

Recipients include the Embrace Life Council located in Iqaluit, Nunavut, that will receive \$250,000 over five years. The funds will be used for grief care packages to assist those mourning the loss of a loved one by suicide.

Thank you for your continued prayers and ongoing support as we journey together on the path of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of This Land. To learn more, visit:

www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation

Archdiocesan Consultation With the Faithful

Thank you to all those who have taken the time to both participate in and promote the Archdiocesan Consultation process that has been underway the last several months. We very much appreciate your ideas and efforts to raise awareness of this important initiative throughout the archdiocese. Recognizing that this is a very busy Advent period, we wanted to offer a gentle reminder to those who have not yet had an opportunity to provide their feedback. While we have indicated a deadline of December 15, 2023, we will keep the survey open until early January to include those who may learn about the initiative over the Christmas break in parishes or through other channels.

A reminder that the survey and supporting materials can be accessed by visiting:

www.archtoronto.org/consultation. For any questions or clarification, please contact communications@archtoronto.org.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God January 1st



This feast recognized Mary as the physical parent of Christ, the God-Man defined at the Council of Ephesus in the 5th century. The third Mass of Christmas reflects the role of Mary in the Redemption, so her role has always been connected with the Christmas Mystery. Later from the 5th century to the 7th century, the feast was transferred to the Octave Day of Christmas, January 1.

Prior to the time that this feast occurred on January 1, New Year's Day was observed as a day of prayer to offset pagan practices, since there were many riotous pagan celebrations. In the 5th century until the Middle Ages it honoured Mary and her Divine Maternity. Then it was observed as the Octave of Christmas, which developed into the Feast of the Circumcision. From 1961 to 1969 the title changed back to the Octave of the Nativity. Finally in 1969 the ancient Marian character was restored, so that we have its present title. It is a Holy day of Obligation.

This Solemnity celebrates the part played by Mary in the Mystery of Salvation, exalts the singular dignity that this Mystery brings to the holy Mother, renews adoration to the newborn Prince of Peace, and implores from God, through Mary's intercession, the supreme gift of peace.

Thank You

Thank you very much for your kind greetings, cards and various gifts over the holidays. On behalf of our parish staff and myself, I would like to extend our best wishes for a Blessed New Year.

Fr. Maderak

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